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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/039,010

12/31/2001

Sompong Paul Olarig

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EXAMINER

CHERY, MARDOCHEE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2188

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/039,010	Applicant(s) OLARIG ET AL.	
	Examiner Mardochee Chery	Art Unit 2188	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8-11,13,16-18,20-27,29 and 32-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8-11,13,16-18,20-27,29 and 32-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is in response to Applicant's communication filed on February 16, 2006 in response to PTO Office Action mailed on November 15, 2005. The Applicant's remarks and amendments to the claims and/or the specification were considered with the results that follow.
2. In response to the Office Action mailed on November 15, 2005, claims 1, 2, 9, 16, 25, 33, and 36 have been amended. No claims have been added. Consequently, claims 1-6, 8-11, 13, 16-18, 20-27, 29, and 32-46 are now pending.
3. The Oath/Declaration file September 10, 2002 has been considered to be sufficient.
4. The rejection of claims 1, 25 and 29 under 35 USC 112 second paragraph has been withdrawn due to the amendment filed on February 16, 2006.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 8-11, 13, 16-18, 20-27, 29, and 32-46 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being unpatentable over Gupta (US 6,405,286).

As per claim 32, Gupta discloses a computer comprising a memory [col.1, lines 24-25]; a controller configured to logically divide the memory into a plurality of interleaved memory regions [Fig.2]; and a plurality of devices, wherein each of the plurality of devices is associated with one of the interleaved memory regions and wherein each of the devices simultaneously accesses its associated interleaved memory region in response to a single transaction request [col.6, lines 21-28; col. 16, ll 12-24].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-23, and 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being anticipated by Leung et al. (US 6,272,577) in view of Guttag (5,761,726).

As per claim 1, Leung et al. discloses a method for transacting between an initiator device and a plurality of target devices [*a memory device in which a single input data stream can be simultaneously written to multiple memory arrays*; col.3, lines 63-65]; sending a multicast transaction from the initiator device to the plurality of target devices, wherein sending the multicast transaction comprises sending a multicast transaction to the single base address associated with each of the plurality of target devices [*a base address which identifies the memory module*; col.10, lines 20-23; *the memory modules are equipped with independent address and command decoders so that they function as independent units, each with their own base address*; *the present invention groups at least two memory arrays or banks into a memory module and connects all the memory modules to a bus*; col.4, lines 20-24; *in each memory module, a programmable identification register contains the base address of the memory module and a mechanism which decommissions the module from acting on certain memory access*; col.5, lines 5-8; col.4, lines 31-33; *multiple bank operations such as broadcast-write and interleaved access possible*; a

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memory device able to handle a broadcast write operations simultaneously; col.5, lines 27-31]; executing the transaction when the transaction is received by the plurality of target devices according to the configuration of the target device [since each memory module is a complete functional unit, the memory module architectures allows parallel processes and multiple memory module operations to be performed within different memory modules; col.4, lines 42-45].

However, Leung does not specifically teach associating each of the plurality of target devices with a single base address, wherein the same single base address is associated with each of the plurality of target devices as recited in the claim.

Guttag discloses associating each of the plurality of target devices with a single base address, wherein the same single base address is associated with each of the plurality of target devices [col.172, lines 48-55] to generate addresses for read/write access to data stored within a plurality of memories (col. 5, ll 40-45).

Since the technology for implementing a data processing system with associating each of the plurality of target devices with a single base address, wherein the same single base address is associated with each of the plurality of target devices was well known as evidenced by Guttag, an artisan would have been motivated to implement this feature in the system of Leung in order to generate addresses for read/write access to data stored within a plurality of memories. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by Applicant to modify the system of Leung to include associating each of the plurality of target devices with a single base address, wherein the same single base address is associated with each of the plurality

of target devices because this would have generated addresses for read/write access to data stored within a plurality of memories (col. 5, ll 40-45) as taught by Guttag.

As per claim 2, Leung et al. discloses assigning a base memory address to be shared by the plurality of target devices [*a base address which identifies the memory module; col.10, lines 20-23; a memory device in which a single input data stream can be simultaneously written to multiple memory arrays; col.3, lines 63-65*]; and assigning a first portion of memory to a first target device of the plurality of target devices [*each memory module has independent address and command decoders to enable independent operation so that each memory module is activated only when a memory access operation is performed; abstract*].

As per claim 3, Leung et al. discloses the transaction is a read request for a block of stored data from memory [*a read or write command causes data to be read or written to different arrays in a time multiplexed data burst; col.24, lines 23-27; the address information comprises a base address of the memory device to be accessed; col.31, lines 12-14*]; recognizing the base memory address from the read request [*each memory module has independent address and command decoders to enable independent operation so that each memory module is activated only when a memory access operation is performed; abstract ; the memory modules are equipped with independent address and command decoders so that they function as independent units, each with their own base address; col.4, lines 31-33*]; initiating a read operation by the plurality of target devices assigned to the base memory address [*each memory module has independent address and command decoders to enable independent operation so that each memory module is activated only when a memory access operation is performed; abstract; a read or write command causes data to be*

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read or written to different arrays in a time multiplexed data burst; col.24, lines 23-27; a base address which identifies the memory module; col.10, lines 20-23]; fetching stored data from a portion of memory associated with each of the target devices, the data being concurrently fetched by each associated target device and sending the fetched data to the initiator device [another multiple-array operation is an interleaved burst operation, in which a read or write command causes data to be read or written to different arrays in a time multiplexed data burst; col.24, lines 23-27].

As per claim 4, Leung et al. discloses, the transaction is a write request for data to be stored in memory [*a read or write command causes data to be read or written to different arrays in a time multiplexed data burst; col.24, lines 23-27]; recognizing the base memory address from the write request [address information comprises a base address of the memory device to be accessed; col.31, lines 13-14; a read or write command causes data to be read or written to different arrays in a time multiplexed data burst; col.24, lines 23-27]; initiating a write operation by the plurality of target devices assigned to the base memory address [each memory module has independent address and command decoders to enable independent operation so that each memory module is activated only when a memory access operation is performed; abstract; a base address which identifies the memory module; col.10, lines 20-23]; and writing data of the write request to a portion of memory associated with each target device, the data being concurrently written by each associated target device[another multiple-array operation is an interleaved burst operation, in which a read or write command causes data to be read or written to different arrays in a time multiplexed data burst; col.24, lines 23-27].*

As per claim 5, Leung et al. discloses, wherein the target devices comprise input/output Controllers [*I/O module 104 contains a controller*, col.7, lines 46-47].

As per claim 6, Leung et al. discloses, the target devices comprise disk array controllers [Fig. 19; *controller 1920*].

As per claim 8, Leung et al. discloses, a plurality of target groups [*the present invention groups at least two memory arrays or banks into a memory module and connects all the memory modules to a bus*; col.4, lines 20-24].

As per claim 9, Leung et al. discloses, a method for transacting data stored in memory between an initiator device and detecting a multicast transaction request [*multiple bank operations such as broadcast-write and interleaved access possible; a memory device able to handle a broadcast write bandwidth of 36 gigabytes per second and 36 memory operations simultaneously*; col.5, lines 27-31]; accessing a first portion of memory by a first target device associated with the first portion of memory in response to the multicast transaction request [*when a memory read or write command is decoded, each memory module examines the communication ID of the command. All modules, except the module to which the command is addressed, go into an idle state until the read or write transaction is finished*; col.19, lines 42-47]; accessing a second portion of memory by a second target device associated with the second portion of memory concurrently with access to the first portion of memory in response to the multicast transaction request wherein the first and second portions of memory are accessed with a single base address associated with the first target device

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and the second target device [*a first field contains a base address which identifies the memory module by communication address. A second field contains an address which identifies the memory array within the memory module. col.10, lines 21-25; the present invention groups at least two memory arrays or banks into a memory module and connects all the memory modules to a bus; col.4, lines 20-24; in each memory module, a programmable identification register contains the base address of the memory module and a mechanism which decommissions the module from acting on certain memory access; col.5, lines 5-8;].*

As per claim 10, Leung et al. discloses, the target devices comprise input/output Controllors [*I/O module 104 contains a controller; col.7, lines 46-47].*

As per claim 11, Leung et al. discloses, the target devices comprise disk array Controllers [*Fig. 19; controller 1920].*

As per claim 13, Leung et al. discloses accessing a plurality of target devices, wherein the plurality of target devices are divided into a plurality of groups, wherein each of the plurality of groups is associated with a single base memory address configured to address the target devices within that group [*the present invention groups at least two memory arrays or banks into a memory module and connects all the memory modules to a bus; col.4, lines 20-24; in each memory module, a programmable identification register contains the base address of the memory module and a mechanism which decommissions the module from acting on certain memory access; col.5, lines 5-8].*

As per claim 16, the rationale in the rejection of claim 1 is herein incorporated.

Leung et al. further discloses, a computer system comprising a bus *[memory device and allowing each memory module to have a communication address on the I/O bus system; col.4, lines 54-56]*; an initiator device coupled to the communications bus for initiating a transaction request *[all memory transactions are initiated by either I/O module 104 or by devices connected to I/O bus 106; col.7, lines 45-46]*; and a plurality of target devices coupled to the communications for executing the transaction request, the plurality of target devices executing the transaction request by each target device concurrently responding to a portion of the transaction request, wherein the initiator device is configured to multicast a transaction request to the plurality of target devices using a single base address associated with the plurality of target devices *[a first field contains a base address which identifies the memory module by communication address. A second field contains an address which identifies the memory array within the memory module. col.10, lines 21-25; a memory device in which a single input data stream can be simultaneously written to multiple memory arrays; col.3, lines 63-65; a memory device in accordance with the present invention provides multiple commands, one after another, to different arrays; col.25, lines 15-17; a base address which identifies the memory module; col.10, lines 20-23; the memory modules are equipped with independent address and command decoders so that they function as independent units, each with their own base address; the present invention groups at least two memory arrays or banks into a memory module and connects all the memory modules to a bus; col.4, lines 20-24]*.

As per claim 17, Leung et al. discloses the target device comprises input/output controllers *[I/O module 104 contains a controller, col.7, lines 46-47]*.

As per claim 18, Leung et al. discloses a target device comprises disk array controllers [Fig. 19; *controller 1920*].

As per claim 20, Leung et al. discloses the plurality of target devices comprise a target group [*the present invention groups at least two memory arrays or banks into a memory module and connects all the memory modules to a bus*; col.4, lines 20-24].

As per claim 21, Leung et al. discloses a plurality of target groups [*the present invention groups at least two memory arrays or banks into a memory module and connects all the memory modules to a bus*; col.4, lines 20-24].

As per claim 22, Leung et al. discloses the transaction is a multicast read request [*all memory transactions are initiated by either I/O module 104 or by devices connected to I/O bus 106*; col.7, lines 45-46; *when a memory read or write command is decoded, each memory module examines the communication ID of the command*; col.19, lines 42-47].

As per claim 23, Leung et al. discloses the transaction is a multicast write request [*multiple bank operations such as broadcast-write and interleaved-access*; col.5, lines 27-29; *a memory device in which a single input data stream can be simultaneously written to multiple memory arrays*; col.3, lines 63-65].

As per claim 25, the rationale in the rejection of claim 1 is herein incorporated.

Leung et al. further discloses a computer system comprising a processor, a bus coupled to the processor [*the two processors can reside on the same bus using the same memory module*; col.10, lines 40-42]; an initiator device coupled to the bus for issuing a multicast transaction, and a plurality of target devices coupled to the bus for executing the multicast transaction with concurrent data responses from a plurality of interleaved memory regions, wherein the initiator device is configured to multicast the transaction request to the plurality of target devices using a single base address associated with the plurality of target devices [*all memory transactions are initiated by either I/O module 104 or by devices connected to I/O bus 106*; col.7, lines 45-46; *multiple bank operations such as broadcast-write and interleaved access possible. A memory device able to handle a broadcast write bandwidth of 36 gigabytes per second and 36 memory operations simultaneously*; col.5, lines 27-31; *a first field contains a base address which identifies the memory module by communication address*; col.10, lines 21-25; *the present invention groups at least two memory arrays or banks into a memory module and connects all the memory modules to a bus*; col.4, lines 20-24; *in each memory module, a programmable identification register contains the base address of the memory module and a mechanism which decommissions the module from acting on certain memory access*; col.5, lines 5-8].

As per claim 26, Leung et al. discloses the target devices comprise input/output controllers [*I/O module 104 contains a controller*, col.7, lines 46-47].

As per claim 27, Leung et al. discloses the target devices comprise disk array Controllers [Fig. 19].

As per claim 29, Leung et al. discloses a plurality of target devices are divided into a plurality of target groups, wherein each of the target groups is associated with its own base address [*the present invention groups at least two memory arrays or banks into a memory module and connects all the memory modules to a bus; col.4, lines 20-24; in each memory module, a programmable identification register contains the base address of the memory module and a mechanism which decommissions the module from acting on certain memory access; col.5, lines 5-8*].

10. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leung in view of Gutttag (5,761,726) and further in view of Carmichael et al. (US 5,864,712).

As per claim 24, Leung and Gutttag disclose the claimed invention as detailed above in the previous paragraphs. However, Leung and Gutttag do not specifically teach the communications bus comprises a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) bus as recited in the claim.

Carmichael discloses the bus comprises a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) bus [*the bridge 36 may simply provide an extension of the processor's bus, or may buffer and extend the processor bus using an entirely different bus structure and protocol such as PCI; col.6, lines 46-50*] to provide an extension of the processor's bus and to buffer and extend the processor (col.6, lines 46-50).

Since the technology for implementing a data processing system using a PCI bus was well known in the art as evidenced by Carmichael, and since a PCI bus provides an

extension of the processor's bus and to buffer and extend the processor, an artisan would have been motivated to implement a PCI bus in the data processing system of Leung and Guttag. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify the system of Leung and Guttag to include a PCI bus to provide an extension of the processor's bus and to buffer and extend the processor (col.6, lines 46-50) as taught by Carmichael.

11. Claims 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leung et al. (US 6,272,577) in view of Guttag (5,761,726) and further in view of Gupta (6,405,286).

As per claim 33, the rationale in the rejection of claim 1 is herein incorporated. However, Leung and Guttag do not specifically teach a method comprising dividing a section of memory into a plurality of interleaved memory regions as required by the claim.

Gupta discloses a method comprising dividing a section of memory into a plurality of interleaved memory regions [col.6, lines 20-24] so that multiple CPUs tend not to access the same memory bank at the same time (col.6, ll 23-26).

Since the technology for implementing a data processing system with dividing a section of memory into a plurality of interleaved memory regions was well known as evidenced by Gupta, an artisan would have been motivated to implement this feature in

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the system of Leung and Guttag] so that multiple CPUs would not tend to access the same memory bank at the same time. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by Applicant to modify the system of Leung Guttag to include dividing a section of memory into a plurality of interleaved memory regions because this would have allowed multiple CPUs not to tend accessing the same memory bank at the same time (col.6, ll 23-26) as taught by Gupta.

AS per claim 34, Gupta discloses executing the memory access comprises executing a read operation [col.6, lines 24-27].

As per claim 35, Gupta discloses executing the memory access comprises executing a write operation [col.6, lines 24-27].

As per claim 36, the rationale in the rejection of claim 1 is herein incorporated. Gupta further discloses a tangible machine readable medium comprising code to initialize a plurality of devices [col.11, lines 36-39]; and code to associate the single base address with a plurality of interleaved memory regions [col.6, lines 21-23]; col.12, lines 44-55].

As per claim 37, Gupta discloses code to issue a single read command comprising the single base address [col.6, lines 11-14; col.4, lines 31-34; col.6, lines 53-54]; code to recognize the single base address as associated with the plurality of

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devices [col.10, lines 20-23; col.6, lines 53-54]; code to simultaneously execute a plurality of memory requests involving the plurality of devices [col.6, lines 21-28; col.6, lines 53-54]; code to receive data from the plurality of devices [col.8, lines 11-12; col.6, lines 53-55]; and code to write the received data to a bus [col.8, lines 14-16].

As per claim 38, Gupta discloses code to issue a write command comprising the single base address [col.6, lines 12-15; col.4, lines 31-34; col.6, lines 53-56]; code to recognize the base address as associated with the plurality of devices [col.4, lines 31-34; col.6, lines 53-56]; and code to simultaneously write to the plurality of devices [col.6, lines 21-28].

12. Claims 39-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leung et al. (US 6,272,577) in view of Guttag (5,761,726) and further in view of Olarig (6,230,225).

As per claim 39, Olarig discloses the multicast transaction comprises sending the multicast transaction from a disk controller to a plurality of disk drives [Fig.1, *PCI device 150A, PCI Bridge 130, Memory 180*] to broadcast a single bus transaction to multiple targets (col.1, lines 5-10).

Since the technology for implementing a data processing with sending multicast transaction to a plurality of disk drives was well known as evidenced by Olarig, an artisan would have been motivated to implement this feature in the system of Leung and Guttag since this would have enabled broadcasting of a single bus transaction to multiple target devices. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant, to modify the system of Leung and Guttag to include sending multicast transaction to a plurality of disk drives because this would have enabled broadcasting of a single bus transaction to multiple target devices (col.1, lines 5-10) as taught by Olarig.

As per claims 40-41, and 43-44, Olarig discloses sending the multicast transaction comprises sending the multicast transaction from a SCSI controller to a plurality of SCSI devices [Fig.1, col.1, lines 26-51].

As per claim 42, Olarig discloses the plurality of target devices comprises a plurality of disk drives [Fig.1, memory 180-190].

13. Claims 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta (US 6,405,286) in view of Olarig (6,230,225).

As per claims 45-46, Olarig discloses sending the multicast transaction comprises sending the multicast transaction from a SCSI controller to a plurality of SCSI devices [Fig.1, col.1, lines 26-51].

Conclusion

14. Applicant's submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) on 02/06/06 prompted the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 609.04(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Leung et al.	6,272,577
Leung et al.	6,754,746
Howard	5,950,218
Carmichael et al.	5,864,712

16. When responding to the office action, Applicant is advised to clearly point out the patentable novelty that he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by references cited or the objections made. He or she must also show how the amendments avoid such references or objections. See 37 C.F.R. 1.111(c).

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mardochee Chery whose telephone number is (571)272-4246. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30A-5:00P.

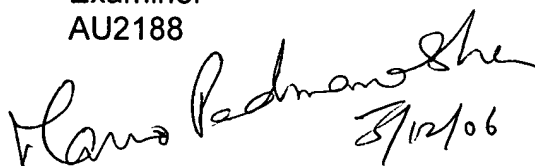
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Manonama Padmanabhan can be reached on (571)272-4210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

May 10, 2006



Mardochee Chery
Examiner
AU2188


3/12/06

MANO PADMANABHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER